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BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON

NURSING: ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE FOR HOSPITAL AND PRIVATE USE. By Isabel Hampton Robb, Graduate of the New York Training-school for Nurses attached to Bellevue Hospital; late Superintendent of Nurses, and Principal of the Training-school for Nurses, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland; late Superintendent of Nurses, Illinois Training-school for Nurses, Chicago, Illinois; member of the Board of Lady Managers, Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio; Honorary Member of the Matrons' Council, London, England. Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Illustrated. Price, \$2.00. Cleveland: E. C. Koeckert, Publisher, 715 Rose Building.

In this new edition of her well known book—since its first appearance the standard of nurse-training schools—Mrs. Hampton Robb exhibits all the interest in and practical knowledge of her subject that one could possibly expect from a present-year graduate, fresh from her school and hospital. The opening chapter, outlining the course of the three-year plan, while of necessity differing from the first chapter of the first edition, in that the latter outlined the training for the two-year course, is noticeably less didactic than the teaching of the earlier book. It is more liberal, allowing more scope for development at the hands of those who undertake to put the plan into practice. One reads with a growing conviction of the value of perspective, here as in other situations; the getting oneself to the point of distance which will enable one to see the different parts in their proper relation to the whole. Nurses owe to Mrs. Robb a particular debt of gratitude that she made this revision of her work a personal matter. The new edition is practically a new book; so much of the old text has been changed, and so much new matter added thereto, that it involves quite as much labor as the writing of a whole new book. One realizes that it must have cost the author considerable moral effort to abstain from handing over the task to other hands; but gratitude increases, as one reads, and we are devoutly thankful that Mrs. Robb's Canadian conscience relentlessly bound her to her duty and constrained her to personally achieve this work. For the work is unique. Many and various hand-books of nursing, some of them the work of men

in the medical profession, have been put upon the market, often with good commercial success, but there have not been any that in theory or practice have invaded the field where Mrs. Robb holds undisputed sway: the reputable nurse-training schools of this country and Canada. Conservative to a degree, the author holds to her earlier teaching in such matters as nursing ethics, hospital etiquette, etc., and present-day superintendents will agree in this and attest to the difficulties that arise whenever the strictly severe rule of former days is relaxed; also they will confirm the idea that a better spirit prevails wherever the strictly conservative etiquette between nurses and internes, attending-men, hospital employees, etc., is maintained. The conservatism quite disappears, however, when the teaching of classes is in question. The author takes for granted that pupils shall be given the privilege of laboratory instruction in place of the didactic lecture of former times, for such subjects as bacteriology, materia medica, and pharmacy; that embryology, with the study of cells and cell tissues, be demonstrated with the aid of microscopy; that chemistry and cooking receive their legitimate attention—all these subjects requiring ample time out of the wards if the pupil nurse is to do them justice. Gone are the days, so far as Mrs. Robb's schedule, when all the teaching the nurse received was in dry-as-dust lectures, coming after a hard day's duty and a heavy supper, when the pupils wrestled mightily to keep awake and take notes, copying the difficult words from the blackboard, where the amiable professor wrote them out. The nurse pupil nowadays expects, and with perfect propriety, to receive a thorough and valuable training, such as will enable her to take any examination her state may see fit to impose before it allows her to practice her profession. She expects, if she reads Mrs. Robb's book, that time shall be given her to do proper justice to the theoretic part of her training, and that she shall be allotted to every department of the hospital and training-school for sufficient length of time to master its technique, from the least to the greatest detail. Moreover, she has every right to expect that when her training is finished she shall have learned many things not set down in the curriculum—things which shall give her an advantage over her lay sister, should nursing life be fated to end with her training. She will be all the better wife and mother for having brought credit to her hospital and training-school. Mrs. Robb's book further takes for granted a larger staff of teachers and demonstrators than training-school boards as a rule provide. Surely this is a matter which will correct itself with the growth of public education. A German visiting American institutions—Professor Muensterberg—spoke with wonder at the short-sightedness of hospital managers in not retaining trained nurses in the hospital. "That the nurses should be laboriously trained for three

years, and should then go off to private posts because funds for hospital appointments could not be raised, was, I must confess, a state of affairs that I failed to comprehend. If funds are needed anywhere, surely it is here, in order to provide the sick with the best possible nursing." It is not a bad thing to feel that our nursing affairs are being watched and criticised by the great thinkers and writers abroad. It should stimulate the nursing body to greater and greater efforts to keep our standards unbroken, to refuse to recede or to yield an inch of the ground that has been gained, in spite of the attacks from without, and the faint-heartedness within our ranks.

Mrs. Robb, as every one knows, speaks from an exceptionally large experience. She knows the superintendent's point of view in addition to the pupil's; and she knows the board of managers' view; but apparently they are all one: to produce a force which shall intelligently, kindly, and mercifully take care of the sick and helpless; that the process shall be in no wise an economic loss; that it shall not involve the sacrifice of any other class, but shall naturally bring its own compensation.

THE IMMEDIATE CARE OF THE INJURED. By Albert S. Morrow, M.D.,
Attending Surgeon to the Workhouse Hospital and to the New
York City Home for the Aged and Infirm. Octavo of 340 pages,
with 238 illustrations. Cloth, \$2.50 net. W. B. Saunders Co.,
Philadelphia and London.

This book seems destined to become a sort of recruiting ground for applicants to the nurse training-schools of the country. We all remember its modest forerunner, "First Aid to the Injured," and it is well known that many who later became more or less famous in the history of the nursing profession owe their first inspiration to the perusal of that work. The present treatise, enlarged and elaborated so as almost to lose all likeness to its modest predecessor, is written in a way to claim popular attention and to prove interesting reading to a large portion of the laity. Technical and scientific language is conspicuous by its absence, and the rather sketchy descriptions are supplemented by many valuable illustrations. Addressed to physicians, nurses, and laymen, it will probably appeal to the last class rather than either the first or second. Interesting reading it is, but the question will not be suppressed of just what value as a guide to emergency work can such a book claim? Will it ever be available where a doctor is not? We are warned in insistent italics that "*first aid should never supersede or take the place of proper medical or surgical attention*;" that "by first aid is meant the *temporary* assistance rendered a sufferer until the arrival of medical aid. To proceed further